Multi-Purpose Identity Cards in Meghalaya

*19. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Meghalaya Government has urged the Centre to introduce multi-purpose identity cards to check the influx of foreign nationals into the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to issue citizen's identity cards to check illegal migration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently, the Government have initiated a Pilot Project on as experimental basis in a few selected sub-districts of 13 States and Union Territories which is expected to be completed by June, 2005. The main scheme in the entire country would be implemented after taking into account the experiences and lessons drawn from the Pilot Project.

Import of Raw Silk from China

*20. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our silk exporters are forced to import raw silk from China due to inferior quality of our raw silk and its high price;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price of Chinese silk is lower than that of ours;

(c) whether Government have enquired into matter to overcome these shortcomings; and

(d) if so, what are its end resutls?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Raw silk production in India is estimated at 15742 MT (2003-04) while demand is estimated is 25000 per annum. Government of India has, therefore, permitted import of raw silk under Open General Licnece (OGL).

(b) China was exporting raw silk to India at low prices which had a disruptive effect on the domestic market of silk. The prices of imported